TO: Dr. Brown (Principal)

CC: Mrs. Smith (Science Dept. Chair)

DATE: June 11, 2013

RE: National Science Center’s Mobile Discovery Center Assembly for Physical Science Classes

As part of the science department here at Imagination High School, I am proposing the idea of using the National Science Center’s Mobile Discovery center to increase the scientific literacy of our students taking Physical Science this upcoming semester. The NSC Mobile Discovery Center is a FREE outreach program provided by the NSC and the U.S. Army that involves hands on demonstrations that are designed to show students that studying math and science are fun, as well as important to their success in the future. This program will be arranged for the 9th grade Physical Science classes to attend during their normally scheduled class period. Students will be given instructions on how they need to participate and act during the program. They will then be sent to the designated area for the program, which will last for approximately 50 minutes.

The NSC’s Mobile Discovery Center is designed to be a part of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) national educational outreach program. Hitachi High Technologies America, Inc. states on their website that promotes STEM education, “By 2018, experts predict the U.S. will have 1.2 million job openings in STEM-related occupations—but only 200,000 new graduates will have the skills to fill them.” This opportunity will allow our students to be engaged in hands-on and inquiry based science learning that will allow them to become interested in skills that are needed to fill STEM-related jobs, while increasing the scientific literacy of ALL students. Even for our students that are not interested in STEM-related careers, scientific literacy is important for all students because it determines how well they will be able to participate in civic actions that are related to science (i.e. natural resource use, alternative energy, healthcare, climate change, etc). I feel that the use of this program will help prepare our students to be successful in life beyond their education here at Imagination High School, which is an important part of our commitment to provide educational experiences that will enable our students to become lifelong learners, enter the work force with necessary skills, and achieve academic and personal potential.

This program will also cover/review many of the GPS standards that are in place for Physical Science. This will give students the opportunity to use equipment that is not available at the school to explore the concepts that are being learned in the classroom. This program will provide the students with an informal learning environment that will allow them to feel safe to explore concepts that they may not fully understand.

After the approval to use this program, I will contact the NSC to verify a date for their visit with the Mobile Discovery Center at some point towards the end of the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year. I believe that this idea is feasible due to the outreach program being free and only minimal planning will need to be done to prepare for their visit. The requirements for space and setup are included in the pre-visit info packet that is on the NSC’s website that I am including at the conclusion of this proposal. I look forward to further discussing this proposal with you. At your convenience, please contact me so that we can discuss my proposal to use the NSC’s Mobile Discovery Center.

Website for the NSC’s Mobile Discovery Center: <http://www.nscdiscovery.org/eo/outreachprograms/mobilediscovery.aspx>